

February 5th, 2020:

Japanese Embassy's reception to celebrate the anniversary of H.I.H. the Emperor of Japan at the Cultural Center "Stavros Niarchos Foundation".

H.E. the Ambassador of Japan Mr. Yasuhiro Shimizu.



Award of the Medal of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver rays from the Emperor of Japan to Dr Stelios L. Papalexandropoulos.

Mr. Papalexandropoulos is Professor of History of Religions specialized to Japanese Religions at the Theological Dpt of the Athens University. He studied Theology at the Athens University and in Switzerland and Japanese Buddhism at the University of Tokyo. He elaborated investigated programs relative to Japanese Religions particularly the founder of the Japanese Soto Zen, Dogen, in many Japanese universities and scientific institutions. Main works: Japanese Philosopher Nisida Kitaro, Deities and Cosmos in cosmogony of Kotziki, the reality in Dogen's work, History of Art of Japanese Buddhism (552-794 a.m.). He wrote too about the New Religion Movements. Concerning the Japanese Literature he translated the work of Abe Kombo (Woman of the Sand), of Ueda Akinari (Ugetsu monogatari), of Siga Naogia (stories) and others. He is interested in the Japanese buddhistic and cosmic art and he gave series of lectures introducing for the first time in Greece subjects of Nihonga, Sin-Hanga and others. He is member of EAJS (European Association of Japanese Studies) and other international academic institutions.

Decoration of Dr. S.Papalexandropoulos from the Ambassador of Japan Mr.Yasuhiro Shimizu.



Award of the Medal of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver rays from the Emperor of Japan to Mrs Joanna Charitou Barczyk

The President of the Greek Chapter of Ohara School of Ikebana in Japan, Mrs Joanna Charitou-Barczyk received the award of the Medal of the Order of the Rising Sun Gold and Silver rays for long-term contribution to the promotion of Japanese culture in Greece and the promotion of the friendly relations between Japan and Greece. She made long term efforts to spread the Japanese floral art Ikebana in Athens and other cities and towns in Greece by organizing for many years Ikebana exhibitions, demonstrations and seminars. She teaches Ikebana art to different groups in Greek, English, French and German and to people with disabilities.

Moreover, during her Presidentship of the European Ohara Teachers Association (E.O.T.A.), she invited from different countries of Europe and other continents Ikebana Ohara Masters to Greece in order to participate to high level Ikebana seminars directed by Ohara Japanese Masters contributing greatly to the strengthening of friendly relations and mutual understanding.



Decoration of Mrs Joanna Charitou Barczyk from the Ambassador of Japan Mr. Yasuhiro Shimizu

